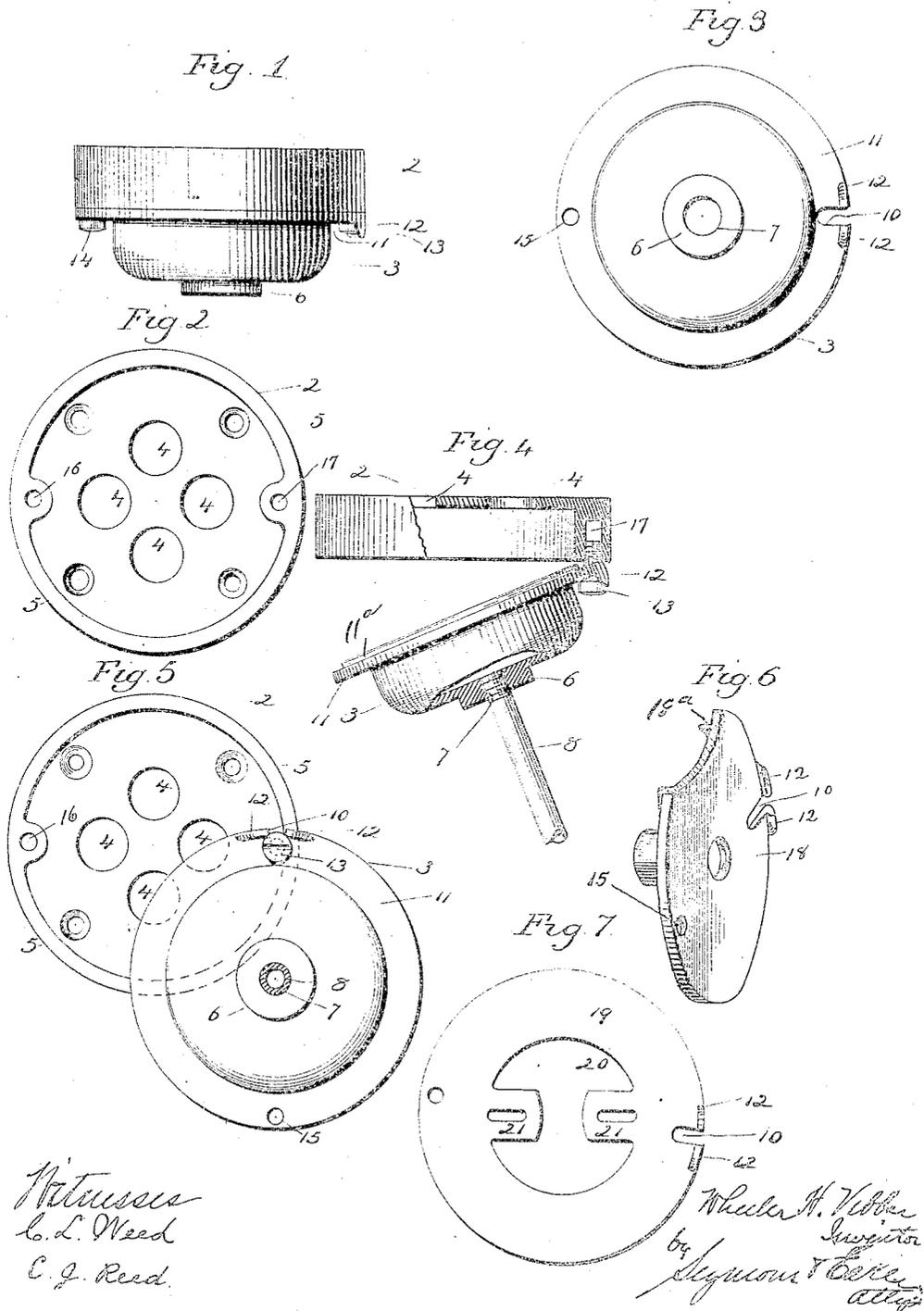


W. H. VIBBER.
ELECTRIC INSTALLATION OUTLET BOX.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ELECTRIC-INSTALLATION OUTLET-BOX.

No. 577,364.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WHEELER E. VIBBER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New London, in the county of New London and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Electric-Installation Outlet-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

15 Figure 1 a view in side elevation of an outlet box constructed in accordance with my invention, Fig. 2 a reverse plan view of the body thereof, Fig. 3 a reverse plan view of the cover thereof, Fig. 4 a view of the box
20 partly in section and partly in side elevation showing the cover suspended in an inclined position from the body as in putting up an overhead fixture the stem of which is shown
25 as mounted in the said cover and broken off. Fig. 5 is a view in elevation showing the cover suspended from the body in a vertical position as in putting up a bracket or side wall fixture the stem of which is shown in
30 section. Fig. 6 is a detached perspective view of a flat cover, also adapted to be suspended from the body of the box in putting up an overhead or side-wall fixture. Fig. 7
35 a plan view of a flat cover also adapted to be suspended from the box-body, but in this instance designed to be used in connection with switches instead of a lamp fixture.

My invention relates to an improvement in electric installation outlet boxes, the
40 object being to produce a simple, compact and convenient device constructed with particular reference to the suspension of the entire fixture directly from the cover and to supporting the cover and fixture from the
45 body in a position permitting access to the wires during the installation of the fixture.

With these ends in view my invention consists in an outlet-box having certain
50 details of construction and combinations of parts as will be hereinafter described and pointed out in the claim.

In carrying out my invention as herein

shown, the box consists of a back or body 2 and a cover 3, substantially corresponding to each other in diameter. The said back or body 2 is formed, as shown, with a central group of four holes 4 through which the wires pass and with a group of four screw holes 5 by means of which it is secured to the ceiling or side wall. Of course the number of wire holes 4 and screw holes 5 and their location may be changed according to circumstances, this forming no part of my invention. The cover 3 is cup-like in form to increase the wire-containing capacity of the box and provided with a centrally arranged exterior hub 6 having a threaded opening 7 into which the threaded upper end of the stem 8 of an electric fixture is screwed. The entire weight, therefore, of the fixture is carried directly by the cover 3 to which it is permanently attached before the cover is connected with the body 2.

Now in order that the electrician who is putting up a fixture may have the free use of both hands unhampered by any use of them for supporting or holding up the fixture, which has previously been attached to the cover by screwing its stem into the same, I provide means for temporarily suspending the cover 3 from the body in such a position as to permit free access to the interior of both. With this end in view, I form the cover with a radial slot 10 opening outwardly through its flange 11 and flanked on either side of its outer end with two corresponding suspension lugs 12 by preference having their inner faces beveled. This permits the cover to be "hooked," as it were, over one of the screws 13 employed for permanently securing the cover to the body, the said screw 13 being at this time sufficiently unscrewed to permit the lugs 12 to be "hooked" over its head as shown in Fig. 3. In this way the cover and its fixture are suspended from the body in a convenient position for the electrician to do his work without calling upon him to use one hand in the support of the fixture while he is doing his work. Without some such suspension means the electrician must support the cover and fixture with one hand or employ a helper to hold the fixture up in case of its being too heavy for him to hold up by one hand. After

the electrician has finished his work, the cover 3 is swung upon the screw 13, as upon a pivot, into its closed position, in which it is brought into the plane of the box and permanently fastened thereto by turning home the screw 13 and inserting and turning home a corresponding screw 14 passing through a screw hole 15 located in the flange 11 of the cover opposite the slot 10 and entering a threaded screw hole 16 in the body which is also provided with a corresponding threaded screw hole 17 for the reception of the screw 13. The said cover 3 is formed upon the upper face of its flange 11 with an annular rib 11^a which centers it as to the body 2 which it enters. If desired I may employ a flat cover 18 as shown in Fig. 6 in place of a cup-like or chambered cover like the cover 3 and like the same having an annular positioning flange 18^a.

As shown by Fig. 7 the flat cover 19 is provided with a slot 10 and suspension lugs 12, but instead of having a threaded central opening 7 for the attachment of a lamp-fixture, it is formed with a large central opening 20 entered by two slotted lugs 21, adapting

this particular cover to be used in connection with switches and receptacles.

I claim:—

In an electric installation outlet-box, the combination with the body thereof, of a cover adapted to have a lamp-fixture secured directly to it and formed in its edge with an open radial slot and provided with two depending lugs located at the outer end of the said slot on the opposite sides thereof respectively, and a screw entering the edge of the box in position to be received by the said slot and to have its head engaged by the said lugs for the suspension of the cover in a vertical position to give access to the interior of the box during wiring, the said screw being also employed to secure the cover to the box so as to close in the wiring.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WHEELER H. VIBBER.

Witnesses:

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THOMAS J. LUSK.